



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

TENNESSEE FIRE SERVICE AND CODES ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **FIRST RESPONDERS ATTEND TRAINING WEEKEND IN THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS**

Bell Buckle, TN.- Approximately 900 firefighters from across the state of Tennessee will be traveling to the Great Smoky Mountains on March 3-4 to attend a weekend of intense firefighter training.

The "2007 Smoky Mountain Weekend" is co-sponsored by the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy, the Sevier County Fire Chief's Association and the Sevier County Training Officers Association.

This event is very well known among the firefighter community as being the largest single firefighter training event and it is open to firefighters from all across Tennessee. The training weekend will be held at the Sevier County High School and auxiliary locations, in Sevierville, Tennessee.

Students have the option of participating in a wide range of educational training courses that include incident command, chief officer, emergency response to terrorism, incident response to terrorist bombings, and recognizing and identifying hazardous materials.

"The Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy is proud to once again be a part of such a vital training event", states Roger Hawks, Executive Director. "With the increased risk and hazards firefighters now deal with, it is critical that we provide the necessary training to protect our states' first responders."

The courses are offered to students for a minimal cost beginning of \$50.00. Students are responsible for room and board, course fees, and transportation. Many departments pay for their own training expenses, while others hold fundraisers to cover the additional costs.

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